

ABSTRACT

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ANALYSING METHOD AND DEVICE WITH A VIEW TO THE AUTOMATIC  
5                    SORTING OF PRODUCTS SUCH AS PIECES OF FRUIT

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The invention concerns a method of analysing products such  
10 as pieces of fruit transported on a conveyer line, the said  
method consisting firstly in arranging, above the said  
conveyer line, three successive analysing stations (5, 6, 7)  
respectively having, in the case of one (5), two cameras (8,  
9) arranged in such a way that their optical axes form a V  
15 which is centred on the products and has a vertex angle in  
the range between  $90^\circ$  and  $130^\circ$ , and in the case of the other  
two (6, 7), a camera (12, 14) arranged plumb with the  
conveyer line. Moreover, the products are driven in  
rotation during their transport along the analysing stations  
20 (5-7), in such a way that the cameras (8, 9, 12, 14) each  
take a number of photographs of complementary faces of the  
surface of the said products, and there are selected from  
among the photographs taken, by a comparison between the  
calculated theoretical diameter of a product and a  
25 predetermined average diameter, the photographs to be  
retained so as to obtain a complete analysis of the total  
surface of the said product.